

II. *Descriptions of eight new species, and a new genus of Cossonides from New Zealand.* By D. SHARP.

[Read December 5th, 1877.]

IN this paper I have drawn up short descriptions of eight new species of *Cossonides* from New Zealand; they are all from the province of Auckland, and are due to the researches of Captain Thos. Broun and Mr. Thos. Lawson. They offer another proof of the excessive difficulty that exists in dealing satisfactorily with genera in face of our present very limited knowledge of the existing species of *Coleoptera*. Being anxious to avoid making new generic names, I have allowed myself to do so for one only of the eight species, *Entium aberrans*, a minute and feeble *Cossonid*, to be placed probably near *Pentarthrum* and *Sericotrogus* in Mr. Wollaston's arrangement, but differing from those insects by the approximate anterior coxæ and feeble tibial hooks. The remarkable *Pentarthrum Wollastonianum*, and its ally *Pentarthrum debile*, might, perhaps, with advantage have been treated as a distinct genus differentiated from *Pentarthrum* by the form of the head, the eyes being remote from the neck; in that case the closely-allied Hawaiian *Pentarthrum prolixum* must have been associated with them. In the case of *Sericotrogus simulans* and *Sericotrogus setiger*, the characters I have pointed out might be considered to call for the establishment of two new genera; but as I feel sure that our knowledge of the New Zealand *Cossonides* is yet quite in its early stages, and as I fancy that any competent entomologist, having these two species before him, would *à priori* have suggested to him a relationship with *Sericotrogus subænescens*, I have left them with that species under the one generic name.

*Pentarthrum Wollastonianum*, n. sp. Perelongatum, angustum, subdepressum, subnitidum, subtiliter punctatum, piceo-ferrugineum; oculis a collo remotis; prothorace sat elongato, antrorsum fortiter angustato, ad marginem anteriorem levissime constricto, crebre subtiliter punctato,

dorso plano; elytris valde elongatis, subtiliter seriatim punctatis, et transversim rugulosis, apice extremo brevissime setigero. Long. exc. rostr.  $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm., lat. vix 1 mm.

Mas., capite rostroque dilatatis.

Fem., capite rostroque gracilibus.

In this species the head and rostrum of the male are very thick, and are rather closely and evenly punctured; the rostrum is dilated at the extremity, and only a little longer than the head; in the female the rostrum is rather slender, and is twice as long as the head; in each sex the antennæ are inserted near the eyes, so that in the female the portion of the rostrum in front of the point of insertion is three or four times as long as the part between the insertion and the eyes; the 2nd joint of the funiculus is not at all longer than the following ones; the thorax is very little contracted at the base; the sculpture of the elytra is peculiar, consisting of fine series intermediate between punctures and striæ, with distinct transverse rugæ. The development of the head and rostrum in the male sex varies much, so that in some individuals it is not much thicker than in the female.

I have named this very remarkable species in honour of the able author of the paper, "On the Genera of *Cossonidae*," published by the Entomological Society of London four years ago. A large colony of the species seems to have been discovered recently by Mr. Thos. Lawson at Auckland.

*Pentarthrum debile*, n. sp. Elongatum, angustum, subdepressum, nitidum, ferrugineum; oculis a collo remotis; prothorace minus elongato, antrorsum fortiter angustato, ad marginem anteriorem leviter constricto, crebre, fortiter punctato; elytris sat fortiter punctato-striatis, apice brevissime setigero. Long.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

This little species in all its characters closely approaches the *Pentarthrum Wollastonianum*, but it is very much smaller, and the sculpture of the thorax and elytra is coarser, the latter being, however, nearly destitute of transverse rugæ; the form of the head and rostrum is similar in the two species, but in the male of *P. debile*, the incrassation of these parts does not attain such an extreme point as it does in *P. Wollastonianum*. The point of insertion of the antennæ is not so near the eye

in *P. debile*, it being in the male just about the middle of the rostrum, in the female a little behind it.

For this species I am also indebted to Mr. R. Lawson, who recently received it from his brother, with the *P. Wollastonianum*.

*Pentarthrum parvicorne*, n. sp. Brevius, subdepressum, sat nitidum, ferrugineum, fortiter punctatum; prothorace elongato, antrorsum fortiter angustato, pone marginem anteriorem leviter constricto, lateribus versus basin evidenter rotundatis et angustatis, crebrius fortiter punctato; elytris sat fortiter striato-punctatis, interstitiis punctulatis. Long. 2 mm.

In this species the eyes are prominent and quite near the neck; the 2nd joint of the funiculus is not longer than the following ones, the 3rd tarsal joint is distinctly larger than the 2nd and bilobed, though the lobes are not large; the sculpture of the elytra takes the form of series of rather coarse punctures which are somewhat depressed, so that the elytra might almost be said to be striate, the interstices appear a little rough, and on examination with a very good glass are seen to bear excessively short indistinct setæ; all the portion of the rostrum in front of the antennal insertion is broader than the posterior portion, and the antennæ are inserted about the middle. The rostrum is thick especially in the male, and in that sex it is opaque; in the female it is rather longer, more slender and more shining, and is nearly as long as the thorax behind the constriction.

Auckland; the male sent by Captain Broun, the female by Mr. R. Lawson.

*Pentarthrum remotum*, n. sp. Brevius, robustulum, subdepressum, sat nitidum rufo-piceum, antennis clava elongata, nigra; prothorace lateribus rotundatis, antrorsum angustato, pone marginem anteriorem depresso, crebrius fortiter punctato, dorso subdepresso, medio ad basin subfoveolato; elytris prothorace paulo latioribus, fortiter punctato striatis. Long. 2—2½ mm.

This little species is easily recognizable by the club of the antennæ, which is elongate, so that it quite equals in length all the rest of the funiculus, and it is also darker in colour than the other joints, and entirely covered with fine pubescence. In each sex the rostrum is rather

shining; in the male it is very broad; in the female it is a good deal more slender, though still rather stout; in each sex the point of insertion of the antennæ is a little before the middle; the 2nd joint of the funiculus is quite small.

This species was sent me by Captain Broun, from Tairua, as No. 324.

*Pentarthrum brevirostre*, n. sp. Brevius, robustulum, minus depressum, fortiter punctatum; rostro brevi, crasso, parallelo, opaco; prothorace elongato, lateribus rotundatis, antrorsum angustato, pone marginem anteriorem depresso, dense, fortiter, profundeque punctato, subopaco; elytris sat nitidis, prothoracis latitudine, profundius striatis, striis sat distincte punctatis. Long.  $2\frac{1}{3}$  mm.

In this species the club of the antennæ is short, stout, and abruptly marked off, and is either circular or oval according as it is viewed from above or from one side; the 2nd joint of the funiculus scarcely differs from the following ones. I do not know the sex of the individuals before me, but probably they are males.

I have recently received a pair of this species from Captain Broun, as No. 43, accompanied by the information that they were cut out of a log at Whangarei.

*Entium aberrans*, n. sp. Perdebile, angustum, subcylindricum, sat nitidum, rufescens, setis tenuissimis, sat elongatis vestitis; prothorace angustulo, cylindrico, fortiter crebre punctato, medio longitudinaliter angustissime impunctato; elytris fortiter seriatim punctatis; metasterno elongato. Long.  $1\frac{2}{3}$  mm. lat.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

The rostrum is more than half as long as the thorax, it is rather fine and indistinctly punctured, and like the rest of the upper surface bears fine hairs. The eyes are rather small, oval, and have their greatest length in the longitudinal direction. The thorax is narrow and cylindric, being only very little narrowed in front, and scarcely at all constricted or depressed there, it is coarsely and rather closely punctured, but the punctures become more sparing towards the middle, so that they almost leave a smooth space along the middle line. Elytra elongate and slender, but distinctly broader than the thorax, not at all striate, but with very regular rows of coarse punctures, which at the apex, however, become fine and indistinct. Under surface sparingly punctured and shining, its setæ excessively short.

I have (as remarked above) given a new generic name to this species; its chief structural characters are as follows. Body clothed with fine hairs; rostrum stout, moderately long, subcylindric; eyes moderately developed; funiculus of antennæ composed of five joints, all of which, except the basal one, are small and slender; the 2nd, however, being a little longer than the following ones; insertion of antennæ near middle of rostrum. Scutellum small but distinct. Front coxæ only very narrowly separated, but middle and hind ones broadly distant. Metasternum very elongate: 1st and 2nd ventral segments elongate. Legs feeble, with slender feeble, linear tibiæ, whose apical uncus is very small. Tarsi small, 4-jointed, 1st and 2nd joints small and short, 3rd rather larger, with slender and short lobes.

*Sericotrogus simulans*, n. sp. Debilis, angustus, minus elongatus, subtus nigricans, supra pube, depressa, elongata, vestitus, rufo-obscurus, antennis testaceis clava picea, pedibus rufis, femoribus obscurioribus; rostro nitido, subtiliter punctato; prothorace lateribus rotundatis, antrosum angustato, pone marginem anteriorem leviter depresso, opaco, dense fortiterque sed parum profunde punctato, medio versus basin indistincte depresso; elytris minus profunde striatis, striis fortiter punctatis, interstitio 2° ad apicem paululum acute elevato; corpore subtus sat fortiter punctato; coxis anterioribus valde distantibus. Long.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm.

This species on account of its colour, sculpture and pubescence, bears a superficial resemblance to *Sericotrogus subænescens*; but it is really extremely distinct therefrom, the rostrum is shining and but little punctate, and differs in structure from that of *S. subænescens*, its basal part being much more constricted; it has also the front coxæ much more widely separated.

I have seen but a single individual, which I had formerly put aside as a very small variety of *S. subænescens*. The specimen is from Auckland, and was sent either by Captain Broun or Mr. Lawson; probably by the former.

*Sericotrogus setiger*, n. sp. Gracilis, elongatus, angustus, fusco-rufus, per-opacus, setis robustis, depressis, flavis, conspicue vestitus, antennis pedibusque rufis; prothorace, elongato, cylindrico, sed in medio dilatato, pone marginem anteriorem fortiter constricto, obsolete punctato, dorso de-

planato; elytris elongatis, minus argute punctato-striatis; corpore subtus fortiter punctato. Long.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

This peculiar species at first sight reminds one of a *Styphlus* or *Orthochaetes*; it departs structurally in several respects from *Sericotrogus subaenescens*, but may be at present arranged in the same genus with that species; it is of more slender and depressed form; has the rostrum more slender and the head is very much smaller, so that the smooth neck is continued forwards almost directly as the rostrum; the antennæ are more slender, the joints before the club being bead-like instead of transverse; the lobes of the 3rd tarsal joint are remarkably largely developed and distinct; and the hind coxæ are rather more distant; in *Sericotrogus subaenescens* the antennal scrobes are remarkably well developed, and are continued backwards, passing to the under surface of the rostrum, while in *Sericotrogus setiger* they are quite small and indistinct.

I received a specimen of this species a few months ago from Captain Broun; it was found by him at Tairua and labelled 308. A second individual sent by Captain Broun at the same time, and with the same number, belongs doubtfully to this species; it is more rufescent in colour, and has the setæ of the upper surface less developed, and shows also other slight differences in sculpture and structure.